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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Preparatory Committee
Third session
Geneva, 14-18 September 1992

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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* General Assembly resolution 46/473, entitled "Venue and dates of the World Conference on Human Rights".

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ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Prepared by the Secretary-General of the
World Conference on Human Rights

Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The third session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights will be opened by the Secretary-General of the World Conference, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights. The session is scheduled to be held at Geneva from 14 to 18 September 1992, in accordance with its decision PC.2/7 of 10 April 1992 taken at its second session.

Item 2. Election of officers and adoption of the rules of procedure

2. It may be recalled that the Preparatory Committee at its first session adopted, as its own rules of procedure, the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

3. In accordance with those rules the Preparatory Committee is called upon to elect a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution.

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

4. The provisional agenda, drawn up by the Secretary-General of the Conference, is based on the decisions of the General Assembly at its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions and is contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/38.

GE.92-13865/0661K (E)

Item 4. Organization of work

5. In view of the limited time available to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, the Committee may wish to establish time-limits on the length and/or number of statements made at the meeting. The Committee may also wish to encourage participants to make joint statements, to the extent possible, as well as statements addressed to more than one item of the agenda.

6. The Committee may wish to consider the need to set up working groups to address specific agenda items; such groups may meet simultaneously if necessary.

Item 5. Dates and venue of the World Conference

7. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to General Assembly decision 46/473, entitled "Venue and dates of the World Conference on Human Rights", in which the Assembly, noting with deep satisfaction the decision of the Government of Austria to invite the World Conference on Human Rights to meet at Vienna, decided that the World Conference would be convened at Vienna for two weeks in June 1993.

Item 6. Draft rules of procedure for the World Conference

8. In its resolution 46/116, the General Assembly decided that the Preparatory Committee should take up the draft rules of procedure for the World Conference at its second session. In that regard, the attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to its decision PC.2/8, entitled "Provisional rules of procedure for the World Conference on Human Rights", adopted at its second session.

9. The following two points concerning the rules of procedure remain to be decided upon by the Preparatory Committee:

(a) In rule 6, the number of Vice-Presidents for the World Conference;

(b) In rule 66, the words "or the regional meetings", which have remained in brackets.

10. The draft rules of procedure are contained in the annex to document A/CONF.157/PC/37.

Item 7. Provisional agenda for the World Conference and documentation, including the question of the final outcome

11. It will be recalled that the Preparatory Committee at its second session noted that since consideration of this item had not yet been concluded, it would be carried over to the agenda of the third sesssion (A/CONF.157/PC/37, para.11).

12. With regard to the draft agenda of the World Conference, the Preparatory Committee at its third session will have before it the various documents submitted on this question to the Committee at its second session including A/CONF.157/PC.16/Rev.1, A/CONF.157/PC.33, and A/CONF.157/PC/CRP.1, 2 and 3 containing the views of the regional groups.

Item 8. Regional meetings

13. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/116, decided that, in accordance with the objectives and provisions of its resolution 45/155, regional meetings should be convened for each region that so desired, within the institutional framework or with the assistance of the regional commissions, and that those meetings should be financed as part of the preparatory work for the World Conference.

14. The Secretary-General of the Conference has been notified of the desire of the Asian Group to hold a regional preparatory meeting at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok from 12 to 16 October 1992; of the African Group to hold a regional preparatory meeting at Tunis from 2 to 6 November 1992; and of the Latin American and Caribbean Group to hold a regional preparatory meeting at San José from 30 November to 4 December 1992. The Preparatory Committee has before it document A/CONF.157/PC/40 regarding the status of preparation of these regional preparatory meetings.

15. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to its decision PC.2/8, entitled "Provisional rules of procedure for the World Conference on Human Rights", concerning rule 66, "Representatives of non-governmental organizations". The Preparatory Committee at its third session is called upon to complete its consideration of this matter.

Item 9. Status of preparation of publications, studies and documentation for the World Conference

16. It will be recalled that in its resolution 46/116, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare the following documentation as soon as possible and to report to the Preparatory Committee on the progress made on: (a) a limited number of short, analytical and action-oriented studies on the issues referred to in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 45/155 and in Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30, in particular paragraph 2 of the annex thereto, and also bearing in mind documentation prepared for and statements made at the first session of the Preparatory Committee; (b) reports of meetings organized under the auspices of the United Nations human rights programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/155; (c) a reference guide to all United Nations studies and reports on human rights or related aspects; (d) an update of the publication United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights; and (e) an update of the publications Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments and Human Rights: Status of International Instruments.

17. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to its decision PC.2/4, entitled "Publications", in which the Preparatory Committee took note of the progress achieved in the development of a reference guide to United Nations studies and reports on human rights and related aspects, and in updating the publications United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights, Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments and Human Rights: Status of International Instruments.

18. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is also drawn to its decision PC.2/6, entitled "Studies and documentation", in which the Preparatory Committee decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on studies and documentation for the Conference (A/CONF.157/PC/20) and of the study topics proposed by the Latin American and Caribbean Group (A/CONF.157/PC/25) and the African Group (A/CONF.157/PC/34), as well as the suggestions made during the discussion on the relevant items by the Preparatory Committee at its second session and those put forward by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights (A/CONF.157/PC/29), and to receive proposals to be submitted by the Asian and other groups. The proposals of the Asian Group have been circulated as document A/CONF.157/PC/36.

19. In this context, the attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to paragraph 57 of the report on its second session (A/CONF.157/PC/37) stating that the Committee adopted decision PC.2/6 with the understanding that the Secretary-General of the Conference would consult all the regional groups before undertaking the studies referred to in paragraph (a) of the adopted decision. The progress report on the subject is contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/41.

Item 10. Other meetings and activities

20. The attention of the Preparatory Committees is drawn to its decision PC.2/3, entitled "Other meetings related to the preparatory process of the World Conference", in which the Committee decided to request the Secretary-General to prepare an analytic compilation of the recommendations, in extenso, of the meetings referred to in his report (A/CONF.157/PC/22) and of any other meetings which might be held under the auspices of the United Nations human rights programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/155, and to submit an initial analytic compilation to the Preparatory Committee at its third session and a final updated compilation to the Committee at its fourth session. Such a compilation is contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/42. A list of other meetings related to the preparatory process of the Conference is contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/43.

Item 11. Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on public information activities relating to the World Conference and the preparatory process

21. It will be recalled that, in its resolution 46/116, the General Assembly decided that the Secretary-General should give the Conference and the preparatory process thereto the widest possible publicity and ensure full coordination of public information activities in the area of human rights within the United Nations system.

22. The Preparatory Committee at its third session will have before it document A/CONF.157/PC/44 containing a comprehensive report on public information activities relating to the World Conference and the preparatory process.

23. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to its decision PC.2/2, entitled "Public information activities", in which the

Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the public information programme and information coverage of the World Conference and its preparatory process (A/CONF.157/PC/17) and urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure coverage of the regional meetings.

Item 12. Participation of representatives of least developed countries in the preparatory meetings and the Conference itself

24. It will be recalled that, further to General Assembly resolution 45/155 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30, a voluntary fund was established to meet the costs of participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the preparatory process and the World Conference itself.

25. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to General Assembly resolution 46/116 in which the Assembly reiterated its invitation for contributions of extrabudgetary resources to meet the costs of such participation, and requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts in that regard.

26. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is also drawn to its decision PC.2/1, entitled "Participation of representatives of least developed countries in the World Conference on Human Rights and the preparatory process", in which the Committee decided that the criteria for the administration of the voluntary fund be modified to provide a daily subsistence allowance for one representative from each such country, in addition to defraying their costs of travel; and further decided to:

(a) Reiterate its invitation for contributions of extrabudgetary resources to meet the additional costs associated with this decision; and

(b) Express its appreciation to those States that have already contributed to this fund.

27. The Preparatory Committee has before it document A/CONF.157/PC/45 on the status of the voluntary fund.

Item 13. Organization of future sessions of the Preparatory Committee

28. It will be recalled that, in its resolution 46/116, the General Assembly decided that the Preparatory Committee should meet for two sessions in 1992 and one session in 1993, each session to last one to two weeks each, if that was agreed to be necessary. The fourth session of the Preparatory Committee is scheduled to take place at Geneva from 22 March to 2 April 1993.

Item 14. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

29. At the conclusion of its session, the Preparatory Committee will adopt a report for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/116.